

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17 and 19-21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system including a plurality of primary storage subsystems, [[and]] a plurality of secondary storage subsystems that are connected to each other via a network, and a host computer connected with the secondary storage subsystems, a method for remotely copying data from each of a plurality of primary volumes to a corresponding secondary volume of a plurality of secondary volumes, wherein the primary volumes are constituted by the primary storage subsystems, and wherein the secondary volumes are constituted by the secondary storage subsystems, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - (1) a normal synchronizing procedure including:
 - receiving, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, remote copy requests each of which is associated with a timestamp from each one of the plurality of primary storage subsystems;
 - receiving periodically, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, synchronizing requests each of which is associated with a timestamp and a primary storage ID of a primary storage subsystem, which sends a respective synchronizing request, from said each one of the primary storage subsystems respectively;
 - determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a first time as a first time parameter based on timestamps included in the synchronizing requests; and
 - determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on the first time parameter, primary storage IDs and timestamps associated with the remote copy requests, thereby maintaining data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems; and
 - (2) an after-failure synchronizing procedure including:
 - suspending said remote copy requests after a failure occurs;
 - collecting and comparing by the host computer time parameters stored in the secondary storage systems to determine a synchronized time;
 - receiving from said host computer at each of the secondary storage subsystems synchronizing requests each of which includes said synchronized time;
 - updating second time parameters at each of the secondary storage subsystems up to said synchronized time; and
 - determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy

requests to process based on said updated second time parameter, thereby maintaining data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the normal synchronizing procedure further ~~[[comprising]]~~ includes:

performing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, write processing in accordance with remote copy requests that are associated with timestamps indicating an earlier time than the first time.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the normal synchronizing procedure further ~~[[comprising]]~~ includes:

managing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a second time parameter for each of the primary storage subsystems; and

updating corresponding second time parameters at each of the secondary storage subsystems in response to whether timestamps associated with the synchronizing requests indicate a later time than the corresponding second time parameters of the second storage subsystems.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first time is the earliest time indicated by the second time parameters.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising: determining a second time with which the secondary storage subsystems are synchronized based on the first time determined by the secondary storage subsystems~~ wherein the determining step in the after-failure synchronizing procedure involves updating a secondary volume corresponding to the determined remote copy request.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[5]]~~1, ~~further comprising: changing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, the first time parameter to the second time parameter~~ wherein the determining step in the after-failure synchronizing procedure involves selecting remote copy requests which are received by the secondary storage subsystems prior to the suspension and have a first time parameter smaller than or equal to said synchronized time to be processed so as to update a corresponding secondary volume.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]]6, wherein ~~the second time is determined when the remote copying is suspended~~ remote copy requests which are received by the secondary storage subsystems prior to the suspension and have a first time parameter bigger than said synchronized time are used to update a bitmap of a corresponding secondary storage subsystem.
8. (Currently Amended) A software residing in a computer readable storage medium for remotely copying data from each of a plurality of primary volumes to a corresponding secondary volume of a plurality of secondary volumes implemented in a data storage system that includes a plurality of primary storage subsystems, [[and]] a plurality of secondary storage subsystems that are connected to each other via a network, and a host computer connected with the secondary storage subsystems, wherein the primary volumes are constituted by the primary storage subsystems, and wherein the secondary volumes are constituted by the secondary storage subsystems, the software comprising:
- (1) a normal synchronizing module including:
 - a module for receiving, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, remote copy requests which are each associated with a timestamp from each one of the plurality of primary storage subsystems respectively;
 - a module for receiving periodically, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, synchronizing requests each of which is associated with a timestamp and a primary storage ID of a primary storage subsystem, which sends a respective synchronizing request, from said each one of the primary storage subsystems respectively;
 - a module for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a first timer as a first time parameter based on the timestamps included in the synchronizing requests; and
 - a module for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on the first time parameter, primary storage IDs and timestamps associated with the remote copy requests, thereby maintain data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems; and
 - (2) an after-failure synchronizing module including:
 - a module for suspending said remote copy requests after a failure occurs;

a module for collecting and comparing by the host computer time parameters stored in the secondary storage systems to determine a synchronized time;

a module for receiving from said host computer at each of the secondary storage subsystems synchronizing requests each of which includes said synchronized time;

a module for updating second time parameters at each of the secondary storage subsystems up to said synchronized time; and

a module for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on said updated second time parameter, thereby maintaining data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems.

9. (Currently Amended) The software of claim 8, wherein the normal synchronizing module further [[comprising]] includes:

a module for write processing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, in accordance with remote copy requests that are associated with timestamps indicating a earlier time than the first time.

10. (Currently Amended) The software of claim 8, wherein the normal synchronizing module further [[comprising]] includes:

a module for managing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a second time parameter for each of the primary storage subsystems, and for updating the corresponding second time parameters in response to timestamps associated with the synchronizing requests that indicate a later time than corresponding second time parameters of the second storage subsystems.

11. (Previously Presented) The software of claim 10, wherein the first time is the earliest time indicated by the second time parameters.

12. (Currently Amended) The software of claim 8, ~~further comprising: a module for determining a second time with which the secondary storage subsystems are synchronized based on the first time determined by the secondary storage subsystems~~ wherein the module for determining in the after-failure synchronizing module includes a module for updating a secondary volume corresponding to the determined remote copy request.

13. (Currently Amended) The software of claim ~~[[12]]~~8, wherein said module for determining module changes, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, the first time parameter to the second time in the after-failure synchronizing module includes a module for selecting remote copy requests which are received by the secondary storage subsystems prior to the suspension and have a first time parameter smaller than or equal to said synchronized time to be processed so as to update a corresponding secondary volume.
14. (Currently Amended) The software of claim ~~[[12]]~~13, wherein ~~said determining module determines the second time when the remote copying is suspended~~ remote copy requests which are received by the secondary storage subsystems prior to the suspension and have a first time parameter bigger than said synchronized time are used to update a bitmap of a corresponding secondary storage subsystem.
15. (Currently Amended) In a system for remotely copying data from each of a plurality of primary volumes to a corresponding secondary volume of a plurality of secondary volumes implemented in a data storage system that includes a plurality of host computers, a plurality of primary storage subsystems and a plurality of secondary storage subsystems, all connected to each other via a network, wherein the primary volumes are constituted by the primary storage subsystems, and wherein the secondary volumes are constituted by the secondary storage subsystems, each of the host computers implementing said system that comprises:
- (1) normal synchronizing means including:
- means for receiving, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, remote copy requests which are each associated with a timestamp from each one of the plurality of primary storage subsystems;
- means for receiving periodically, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, synchronizing requests each of which is associated with a timestamp and a primary storage ID of a primary storage subsystem, which sends a respective synchronizing request, from said each one of the primary storage subsystems respectively;
- means for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a first timer as a first time parameter based on the timestamps included in the synchronizing requests; and

means for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on the first time parameter, primary storage IDs and timestamps associated with the remote copy requests, thereby maintain data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems; and

(2) after-failure synchronizing means including:

means for suspending said remote copy requests after a failure occurs;

means for collecting and comparing by the host computer time parameters stored in the secondary storage systems to determine a synchronized time;

means for receiving from said host computer at each of the secondary storage subsystems synchronizing requests each of which includes said synchronized time;

means for updating second time parameters at each of the secondary storage subsystems up to said synchronized time; and

means for determining, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, which remote copy requests to process based on said updated second time parameter, thereby maintaining data I/O consistency among said storage subsystems.

16. (Currently Amended) In a system according to claim 15, wherein the normal synchronizing means further [[comprising]] includes:

means for write processing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, in accordance with remote copy requests that are associated with timestamps indicating an earlier time than the first time.

17. (Currently Amended) In a system according to claim 15, wherein the normal synchronizing means further [[comprising]] includes:

means for managing, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, a second time parameter for each of the primary storage subsystems, and for updating the corresponding second time parameters in response to timestamps associated with the synchronizing requests that indicate a later time than corresponding second time parameters of the second storage subsystems.

18. (Original) In a system according to claim 17, wherein the first time is the earliest time indicated by the second time parameters.

19. (Currently Amended) In a software system according to claim 15, wherein further

~~comprising~~; means for determining a second time with which the secondary storage subsystems are synchronized based on the first time determined by the secondary storage subsystems in the after-failure synchronizing means includes means for updating a secondary volume corresponding to the determined remote copy request.

20. (Currently Amended) In a system according to claim ~~[[19]]~~15, wherein said means for determining means is further formed to change, at each of the secondary storage subsystems, the first time parameter to the second time in the after-failure synchronizing means includes means for selecting remote copy requests which are received by the secondary storage subsystems prior to the suspension and have a first time parameter smaller than or equal to said synchronized time to be processed so as to update a corresponding secondary volume.
21. (Currently Amended) In a system according to claim ~~[[19]]~~20, wherein said determining means is further formed to determine the second time when the remote copying is suspended remote copy requests which are received by the secondary storage subsystems prior to the suspension and have a first time parameter bigger than said synchronized time are used to update a bitmap of a corresponding secondary storage subsystem.